

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 3 and 15 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 6, 13 and 16 as follows. A marked-up copy of Claims 1 and 13 showing the changes made thereto, is attached. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

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1. (Three Times Amended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel, comprising the steps of:

- a) fabricating an airtight vessel connected to an evacuation tube;
- b) evacuating the inside of the airtight vessel through the evacuation tube while simultaneously baking the entire airtight vessel,
- c) activating a getter disposed in the airtight vessel; and
- d) after activation of the getter and during the evacuating step, sealing the evacuation tube by heating the evacuation tube.

2. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 1, wherein the evacuation tube is heated simultaneously with the heating step.

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4. (Amended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 2, wherein the evacuation step is executed simultaneously with at least one of the getter activation step, the heating step and the baking step.

5. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 4, wherein the evacuation step is executed simultaneously with at least the getter activation step along with being executed while the vessel is heated.

6. (Amended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 2, wherein the evacuation step is executed prior to the getter activation step.

7. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 6, wherein the evacuation step is executed while the vessel is heated.

8. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 1, wherein the getter is a nonevaporable getter.

9. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 8, further comprising the step of reactivating the nonevaporable getter after the baking step.

10. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 8, further comprising a getter flash step of activating an evaporable getter after the baking step.

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11. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 10, further comprising the step of degassing the evaporable getter by heating the evaporable getter prior to the getter flash step.

12. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 11, wherein the degassing step is executed prior to the baking step.

13. (Three Times Amended) A method for manufacturing an image-forming apparatus using an airtight vessel containing a plurality of electron emission elements and image-forming members comprising the steps of:

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- a) fabricating an airtight vessel connected to an evacuation tube;
 - b) evacuating the inside of the airtight vessel through the evacuation tube while simultaneously baking the entire airtight vessel,
 - c) activating a getter disposed in the airtight vessel; and
 - d) after activation of the getter and during the evacuating step, sealing the evacuation tube by heating the evacuation tube.

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14. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the evacuation tube is heated simultaneously with the heating step.

16. (Amended) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the evacuation step is executed simultaneously with at least one of the getter activation step, the heating step and the baking step.

17. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein the evacuation step is executed simultaneously with at least the getter activation step along with being executed while the vessel is heated.

18. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the evacuation step is executed prior to the getter activation step.

19. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the evacuation step is executed while the vessel is heated.

20. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the getter is a nonevaporable getter.

21. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 20, further comprising the step of reactivating the nonevaporable getter after the baking step.